

The Everlasting Gospel Bible Study

Introduction

In our last study together, we discussed the shedding of the Innocent Blood of Jesus Christ on our behalf to make atonement for our sins. And here is where for many, the story of the gospel ends. They believe that “Jesus died for my sins,” and that is the end of the it, but this is not the end of the story! The Gospel plan tells us that Jesus had to die for us, but He also had to live for us. He had to live a perfect life without sin. The Bible uses the term “righteousness” to describe a state of perfection, or as the term suggests, “right-doing.” Another way of saying it is that He had to live a righteous life. Let us look at what this means as we dive deeper into this great gospel story.

Lesson Three: The Righteousness of Christ

1. How does the Bible define righteousness? Psalm 119:172 *“My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your _____ are _____.”*
 - a. The Ten commandments or, as it is also known, “the Law” are the standard of what Righteousness is, or as we have already said the standard of what right doing looks like. Discuss: How do the Ten Commandments reflect the standard of right-doing (righteousness)?
 - i. Since the Law of God, or the ten Commandments, is the standard of righteousness does the Law demand perfect obedience in order that man may have eternal life? Read Romans 10:5 *“For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the Law, “The man who does those things shall _____ by them.”*
 - ii. Galatians 3:10 *“For as many as are of the works of the Law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in _____ things which are written in the book of the Law, to _____ them.”*
 - b. Paul’s meaning is clear: The Law demands perfect obedience or righteousness (right-doing). His statements are obvious; the Law demands perfect righteousness. But no one (except Christ) has ever lived the perfect righteous life that the Law demands for eternal life. Romans 3:23 says *“that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”*

Read and discuss this commentary:

“It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's Law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen, and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy Law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the Law of God.” (Steps to Christ 62.2)

Your reply:

2. As we are beginning to see, the Law of God demands a perfect righteousness towards it, or perfect right doing, obedience, and when there is not perfect righteousness in our life the

Law demands death, or what Moses called the curse of the Law. The death penalty is only part of the human predicament. The Law still demands perfect unblemished righteousness for eternal life. The question that we will explore next is how can we have perfect righteousness to meet the demands of the Law? Romans 10:4. *“For Christ is the _____ of the Law for _____ to everyone who believes.”*

- a. In other words, Romans 10:4 is saying that Christ met the demands of the Law for righteousness. He is the only Man to perfectly satisfy the high demand of the Law. He came to the earth to pay the penalty for the broken Law, or a lack of righteousness in man, and He came to live out a perfectly righteous life.
- b. Read Matthew 3:15
“But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all _____.” Then he allowed Him.”
- c. John 8:46 (NIV) *“Can any of you prove Me guilty of _____? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe Me?”*
Christ never sinned not once. Therefore, He kept the Law perfectly, He fulfilled all righteousness.
- d. Read Matthew 4:1-11. In light of the above text discuss why was Jesus tested?
 - i. The obvious reason is that Satan was trying to get Jesus to sin, and if Jesus would have sinned then He could not have satisfied the Law’s demand for perfect righteousness.

3. It is clear that we can’t be righteous, and that Jesus was Righteous. Still, how can we satisfy the Law’s demand for perfect righteousness from us?

- a. Read Romans 3:21-26
“But now the _____ of _____ apart from the Law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the _____ of _____, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being _____ freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate _____ righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time _____ righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has _____ in Jesus.”
- b. According to the above text, answer the following questions:
 - i. Whose righteousness does Paul declare? _____
 - ii. How do we receive that righteousness? _____
 - iii. What does God do for us when we receive this righteousness? _____
When we have faith in the Righteousness of God, or what we call Christ’s Righteousness, God will Justify us. Justify simple means to acquit us before the judgment of God in which we are being condemned on the basis of being Law breakers. This is why we say that we are justified by faith in the Righteousness of Christ.

- c. Can a man be justified {acquitted in God's court} by his own good works, or what the Bible calls his own righteousness? Read Romans 4:1-3. What did you find? How was Abraham justified?
- i. **Answer:** Read Romans 10:3: Whose righteousness must we submit to?
-

Read and discuss this quote:

“By His perfect obedience He has satisfied the claims of the Law, and my only hope is found in looking to Him as my substitute and surety, who obeyed the Law perfectly for me. By faith in His merits I am free from the condemnation of the Law. He clothes me with His righteousness, which answers all the demands of the Law. I am complete in Him who brings in everlasting righteousness. He presents me to God in the spotless garment of which no thread was woven by any human agent.”
Selected Messages, Volume 1, pg396

Summary:

According to the universal rule of God, His Law demands, as a condition for eternal life, perfect obedience (righteousness. Whenever a person was found to be in violation of that Law, the penalty was death. But our loving God found a way to satisfy the justice of the Law by sending His own Son as a second Adam, or as a new Man, and He allowed Him to not only die for our unrighteousness (sin), but He would also grant to us His Son's perfect Righteousness, so that the Law of God would be forever satisfied toward us! And we can receive this wonderful transaction by faith, or said another way, by believing in what His Son, Jesus, has done for us.

Do you today want to demonstrate your faith by affirming that you believe that Jesus both lived and died for you personally?